Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14 and 15.

Please add new Claims 26-32.

Please cancel Claims 16-20, 22 and 25.

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNFα ~~to anti-TNFα chimeric monoclonal antibody cA2~~ and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method of treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα chimeric monoclonal antibody ~~cA2~~ or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNFα chimeric antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNFα and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human at least one anti-TNFα chimeric ~~monoclonal~~ antibody ~~cA2~~, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof, said anti-TNFα chimeric antibody comprising a human IgG1 constant region, and wherein said anti-TNFα chimeric antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNFα and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, ~~wherein~~ said anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody ~~comprises an~~ comprising a human IgG1 constant region, and wherein said anti-TNFα antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNFα ~~to anti-TNFα chimeric monoclonal antibody cA2~~ and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method of treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNFα chimeric antibody comprises a non-human variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:3 and SEQ ID NO.:5.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα chimeric antibody, wherein said anti-TNFα chimeric antibody comprises

an IgG1 human constant region and a non-human variable region comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:3 and SEQ ID NO.:5.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the non-human variable region comprises a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:2 and SEQ ID NO.:4.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the non-human variable region comprises a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO.:2 and SEQ ID NO.: 4.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of treating TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment (i) has epitopic specificity identical to A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) ~~monoclonal antibody cA2~~, and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNFα ~~to anti-TNFα chimeric monoclonal antibody cA2~~ and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNFα-mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of anti-TNFα chimeric ~~monoclonal~~ antibody ~~cA2~~ or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNFα chimeric antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof (i) competitively inhibits binding of A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) to human TNFα and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammation associated with TNF-α mediated ~~hepatitis~~ viral infection in a human comprising administering to the human an effective TNFα-inhibiting amount of an anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof, said antibody comprising a human constant region, wherein said anti-TNFα ~~chimeric~~ antibody has epitopic specificity identical to A2 (ATCC Accession No. PTA-7045) ~~monoclonal antibody cA2~~, and (ii) binds to a neutralizing epitope of human TNFα *in vivo* with an affinity of at least 1 x 10^8 liter/mole, measured as an association constant (Ka), as determined by Scatchard analysis.

Claims 16-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said anti-TNFα antibody is administered to the human by means of intravenous administration, subcutaneous administration or intramuscular administration.

Claim 22 (Canceled).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said TNFα-inhibiting amount of the anti-TNFα antibody comprises a single or divided dose of about 0.1 - 50 mg/kg.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23 wherein said single or divided dose is selected from the group consisting of: about a 0.1 - 1 mg/kg dose, about a 1.0 - 5 mg/kg dose, about a 5 - 10 mg/kg dose and about a 10 - 20 mg/kg dose.

Claim 25. (Canceled).

26. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said TNFα-mediated viral infection is associated with liver inflammation.

27. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said TNFα-mediated viral infection is associated with inflammation.

28. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said TNFα-mediated viral infection is associated with alcohol-induced hepatitis.

29. (New) The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of Claim 1, which is of immunoglobulin class IgG1, IgG2, IgG3, IgG4 or IgM.

30. (New) The antigen-binding fragment of Claim 1, wherein said fragment is selected from the group consisting of Fab, Fab', $F(ab')_2$ and Fv.

31. (New) The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of Claim 1, wherein the antibody or antigen-binding fragment comprises a human constant region and a human variable region.

32. (New) The antibody or antigen-binding fragment of Claim 1, which comprises at least one human light chain and at least one human heavy chain.